

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATIONCROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/219,170, filed July 19, 2000 and entitled OPTICAL PRECIPITATION SENSOR. The subject matter of this application is incorporated herein by this reference.

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The U. S. Patent numbered 4,798,956 to Hochstein employed two methods toward overcoming the ambient light problem. For the first method, the receiver was placed at the bottom of a black tube to limit the number of directions from which ambient light could successfully reach the receiver. The use of infrared emitters was central to the second method employed. The '956 patent stated that infrared was used to compensate for ambient light. It indicated that commercially available infrared emitters emitted peak energy at 940 nm, in contrast to solar radiant energy peaking at approximately 500 ~~nm~~nm. A filter was then placed in the tube between the opening of the tube and the receiver which passed the infrared light but rejected light of wavelengths shorter than infrared, including the peak solar wavelength of 500 nm.